

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 35 and 36 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 30 and 34 are amended. The following is a status of the claims, as amended:

Claims 1-29 (Canceled.)

30. (Currently amended.) A variant of a parent alpha-amylase enzyme, wherein said parent alpha-amylase has an amino acid sequence which has at least 80% homology to SEQ ID NO:3, and wherein said variant has at least 80% identity to said parent alpha-amylase and comprises deletions at positions equivalent to positions 179 and 180 in SEQ ID NO:3 and amino acid substitutions of a cysteine at positions equivalent to positions 349 and 428 in SEQ ID NO:3 (using SEQ ID NO:3 for numbering).

31. (Previously presented.) The variant of claim 30, wherein said parent alpha-amylase has an amino acid sequence which has at least 85% homology to SEQ ID NO:3.

32. (Previously presented.) The variant of claim 30, wherein said parent alpha-amylase has an amino acid sequence which has at least 90% homology to SEQ ID NO:3.

33. (Previously presented.) The variant of claim 30, wherein said parent alpha-amylase has an amino acid sequence which has at least 95% homology to SEQ ID NO:3.

34. (Canceled.)

35. (Currently amended.) An isolated alpha-amylase enzyme comprising an amino acid sequence having an amino acid sequence which has at least 80% homology to SEQ ID NO:3, modified by having deletions at positions equivalent to positions 179 and 180 in SEQ ID NO:3 and amino acid substitutions of a cysteine at positions equivalent to positions 349 and 428 in SEQ ID NO:3.

36. (Canceled.)

37. (Previously presented.) The alpha-amylase of claim 35, wherein said alpha-amylase has

an amino acid sequence which has at least 85% homology to SEQ ID NO:3.

38. (Previously presented.) The alpha-amylase of claim 35, wherein said alpha-amylase has an amino acid sequence which has at least 90% homology to SEQ ID NO:3.

39. (Previously presented.) The alpha-amylase of claim 35, wherein said alpha-amylase has an amino acid sequence which has at least 95% homology to SEQ ID NO:3.

Claims 40-47 (Withdrawn)